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DDA 86-1370 8 August 1986

NOTE FOR: Director of Training and

Education

SUBJECT: DDA Initiatives

Stan:

The Comptroller has picked up on one of the DDA initiatives in the attached memorandum. You may recall when I briefed about the DDA initiatives that I singled out the budget-fiscal career as one that needed external training so we had a few people around who could handle big projects. Please factor the message in this memorandum into your thinking.

William F. Donnelly

Attachment:
As stated

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31 July 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Director

Deputy Director for Administration Deputy Director for Intelligence Deputy Director for Operations

Deputy Director for Science and Technology

FROM:

Daniel A. Childs, Jr.

Comptroller

SUBJECT:

Comptroller/Budget Career Development

Bin: -

- 1. When I returned to the Agency--some four years ago now--I was appalled by both the limited number of experienced budget/planning officers in the Agency and the lack of career development opportunities/incentives in the field.
- 2. During the period since my return, a number of steps have been taken to try to improve this situation. The Office of the Comptroller has developed several courses on the budget process that range from a half-day to five days full-time. These courses are aimed at both the practitioner and various levels of Agency management and have been generally well received. The Office of Finance has created a budget career track in the Finance career service which allows Finance careerists to pursue a career path in the budget field. They also have taken steps to try to insure more continuity in senior budget/planning positions.
- 3. Some progress is evident, but it is far too slow. The sad fact is that too many of our officers today--both managers and support officers--are thrust into senior positions ill prepared to cope with the resource management process. And this is not likely to improve significantly in the near-term. I would like to enlist your active support in a more aggressive approach to remedying this problem. Suggested steps you might consider taking include:
- -- Impress upon managers at all levels in your directorate the importance of familiarity with and direct involvement in the resource management process.
- -- Encourage managers to accept rotational staff assignments within the directorate that involve planning/resource management, or a rotational assignment in the Comptroller's Office.
- -- Impress upon junior officers the importance management places on sound budget/planning and encourage them to enhance their skills in this area.
- -- Encourage B&F officers assigned to your directorate to give priority attention to the budget/planning aspects of their job; include senior B&F officers as an integral part of your directorate management team.

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SUBJECT: Comptroller/Budget Career Development

- -- Identify a cadre of officers (20-25) at the GS 9-12 level whose assignments, training, etc. would be structured so that they will be prepared to assume senior Agency budget/planning positions within the next five years.
- -- Consider integrating the budget/planning functions in your directorate; at a minimum, direct greater coordination between the two.
- 4. These are but a few suggestions that come quickly to mind. I would welcome any further thoughts, comments, or suggestions you might have on this subject.

Daniel A. Childs, Jr.

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